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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



U. S. Department of Agriculture

1930 PRICE LIST

*Play Safe--
Plant Hardy*



This Trade Mark Stands for Purity, Genuineness of
Variety and Guaranteed Origin of Growth.
Our Bond and Your Guarantee.

*Western South Dakota
Alfalfa Seed Growers' Exchange*

Rapid City, South Dakota

Why Buy Alfalfa?

ALFALFA once started and properly taken care of provides a permanent crop. It excels all other hay crops in yields per acre, feeding value, drought resistance, soil enrichment and weed eradication.

With proper preparation of the soil, alfalfa can be grown successfully anywhere that farm crops are grown, by using hardy grown alfalfa seed. Western South Dakota alfalfa seed is recognized by all authorities as being second to none in hardness. You have absolute assurance of getting this seed when placing your orders with this growers' marketing organization.

S. D. No. 12 Alfalfa

Our S. D. No. 12 is an alfalfa that traces its ancestry to seed having been brought into the Black Hills section of Western South Dakota nearly half a century ago, from the higher altitude of the mountain states to the west of us, and the original fields are still producing abundantly. Fields thirty to forty years old are very common.

The hardy characteristics of this variety have largely been developed in our rigorous climate as concerns heat in summer and cold in winter, with seasons of short rainfall to extreme moisture, over this long period of years. Through the elimination of the unfit plants it has developed a strain of alfalfa second-to-none of all common varieties.

You are sure of getting this strain true to name and origin of growth when you buy of this growers' organization, sealed with our seal and tagged under our trade mark.

Registered Grimm Alfalfa

It is needless to say that GRIMM alfalfa is recognized by all authorities as being the variety to sow where severe heaving of the soil prevails through action of freezing and thawing. As a pasture plant it will stand severe abuses due to its underground crown and spreading root system. All of the GRIMM seed handled by this Exchange is grown upon fields that have had the most rigid inspection under the supervision of our Extension Agronomist and their lineage traced back to the original foundation stocks. Affidavits of genuineness are furnished.

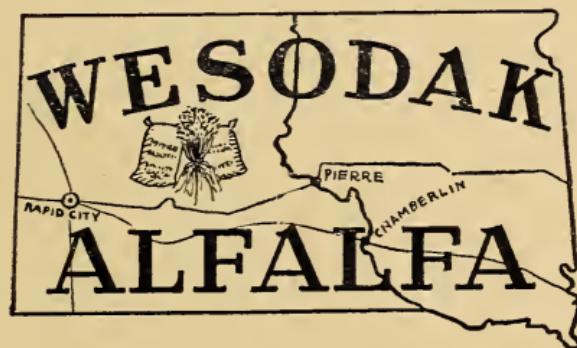
Registered Cossack Alfalfa

This variety was found growing wild in the high altitudes of Siberia, by our Prof. N. E. Hansen of the College of Agriculture, Brookings, S. D., under the most severe climatic conditions, varying in the extremes as concerns cold in winter and heat in summer and a very light rainfall. This variety is recognized as one of the hardest of alfalfas and produces a very fine stemmed and extra leafy forage. This variety found its first home in America in Western South Dakota and the seed we handle is from many of the original fields.

FACTS

you should know

About



Don't throw this away.
You will find it interesting as well as instructive.
Read it and pass it on to your neighbor.

Western South Dakota Alfalfa
Seed Growers Exchange

Rapid City, South Dakota

ALFALFA, which up to a few years ago was so little known in this country outside of the Western States, has played an important part in history. Investigators have traced it back to very ancient times and have found references to it even in the Bible. It apparently made its way from Southwestern Asia to Persia, and into Arabia, where it received the name by which it is generally known today. "Alfalfa" is an Arabic word, meaning "the best forage." "Lucerne," the name which is used generally throughout Europe, is taken from a river valley in Northern Italy.

The Persians took alfalfa with them when they invaded Greece, about 500 B. C., planting it to obtain forage for their horses and eating it as greens. The plant now is frequently used for human consumption in certain sections of the Orient. From Greece, alfalfa spread to Rome, and became an important crop. A Latin writer, Columella, about 56 A. D., in a treatise called "De Re Rustica," shows a surprising knowledge of the plant. According to him, alfalfa was at that time the "choicest forage," produced six cuttings yearly and lasted ten years.

The plant, followed the Roman Legions into France, Spain, Germany, England and other parts of Europe. It reached America in two ways. The Spaniards took it to South America and Mexico, whence it found its way into Texas, New Mexico, California and, probably, Arizona. But the great development took place in the West after the gold rush to California. Travelers around the Horn stopped over in Chili, found alfalfa thriving there, and took seed with them to California. The soil and climatic conditions proved ideal. Many who never found the gold they were seeking obtained wealth through the more certain method of alfalfa growing.

Alfalfa seed was brought into the Eastern states by early settlers from Continental Europe. Apparently it did well in spots. George Washington grew it, and Thomas Jefferson mentions in his writings the pleasure he had in raising "lucerne." The "American Farmer" in 1823 published an article on alfalfa, in which it was stated that the price of seed was 50c per pound. Alfalfa production in the Eastern States waned somewhat after the Colonial period, probably due to lack of knowledge about the plant, deficiency of lime in the soil, the lack of drainage, impossibility of maturing seed, and the necessity of importing it from Europe at high prices.

Statistics show that alfalfa growing in Colorado

was well developed by 1886. Its progress East of the Missouri was rather slow, with the exception of Minnesota. Wendelin Grimm, an immigrant from Kulsheim, Grand Duchy of Baden, Germany, brought over a small bag of seed with him when he settled in Minnesota in 1857. At first he had considerable difficulty. The winters were more severe than in Baden, and the plant did not do well in its new home. He persisted however, saving some seed each year until it became acclimated. From this beginning we have the "Ewiger klee" (ever lasting clover) or Grimm alfalfa.

Statistics show that alfalfa and the production of seed in western South Dakota dates back to 1881 which marked the beginning and propagation of this valuable plant in this state. The original fields were sown in the Black Hills section of western South Dakota where originated most of the impetus to a larger acreage of this valuable legume and at this time without doubt the acreage in this section is several times larger, per capita, than in any State in the Union.

It has been demonstrated beyond all doubt that alfalfa can be grown successful in practically every place where farm crops are grown, providing proper methods and hardy grown alfalfa seed are used.

Alfalfa, like everything else, is a survival of the fittest, and this is an explanation in a few words why alfalfa seed grown in western South Dakota is second to none in hardiness. This characteristic has been developed over a period of nearly half a century by a wide variation of climatic conditions. Most failures in alfalfa growing are caused by the use of unadapted seed. Due to the stress placed upon this by agricultural experts, farmers are becoming more and more particular about the origin of the seed they plant. To make this dependability possible is primarily the reason for the existence of this organization.

This organization had its inception in August, 1921, when a group of a few of the enthusiastic growers of alfalfa seed of this section met in Rapid City, and through the cooperation of the South Dakota Agricultural College, our state Farm Bureau and our state department of agriculture, organized temporarily the Western South Dakota Alfalfa Seed Growers Exchange, which temporary organization later became and is now a permanent organization.

The original intent and aim has been carried out to the letter, i. e., standardized grades; absolute genuineness of variety; guaranteed hardy origin; from producer to consumer.

From a very small beginning we have grown to where we are now handling more than double the amount of South Dakota grown seed handled by any other dealer in the United States.

Our direct to consumer trade has increased more than twenty-five times since our first year which is indicative of the results possible by furnishing hardy seed, highly cleaned and graded, true to name and square dealing. Our motto has been and will continue to be: "A transaction is not completed until our customer is satisfied."

Our cleaning and grading plant is one of the best equipped in the country and this has made our superior grades possible.

Past experience of many who have attempted to grow alfalfa would make the following good advice indeed: **BE SURE YOU ARE BUYING YOUR SEED FROM A DEPENDABLE SOURCE.**

We are building our future around our trade mark, **WESODAK ALFALFA**, which is our bond and your guarantee.

The REASON

for the Existence of the Western South Dakota Alfalfa Seed Growers Exchange

HISTORY OF S. D. NO. 12

By way of explanation, I might say that this variety has been on the market for many years as S. D. Common or Black Hills Common. The above number was given this variety by the South Dakota Experiment Station, having used seed for experimental purposes from some of the oldest fields, to which is traced the ancestry of all of our alfalfa fields, of this variety.

Statistics show that alfalfa and production of seed in Western South Dakota dates back to 1881, which marked the beginning of this variety. Our first plantings were with seed secured from the mountain states west of us. This variety, as we are now offering, is a survival of the fittest. The process of elimination over a period of forty-five years, under varying climatic conditions from heat to cold, drought to extreme moisture, and winters with little or no snow for protection, is the **WHY** of the hardiness of this strain of alfalfa.

The S. D. No. 12 has an upright growth, a very heavy producer, and will give a satisfactory ac-

count of itself anywhere that farm crops are grown. We handle more of this variety than any dealer in the United States, and if bought under our trade mark WESODAK, and our seal, your alfalfa problems will be more than half solved.

GRIMM ALFALFA

This variety has a real history, having been brought to Carver County, Minnesota, from Baden, Germany, by Wendelin Grimm in 1857, where, without question, it has developed its extremely hardy characteristics, under climatic conditions which no alfalfa from other producing sections would withstand. This variety has a beautiful variegated bloom, has a spreading root and an underground crown and will withstand severe pasturing, and also heaving of the soil by frost.

Grimm alfalfa is a heavy producer, fine stemmed and leafy forage. The production of this variety is limited in comparison to the whole and for this reason growers, as well as some dealers, have sold a great deal of seed of common origin as Grimm seed. We are on the ground floor and know our growers and also their fields. This enables us to absolutely guarantee the genuineness of this variety.

COSSACK ALFALFA

Is a variety that without doubt is a rich reward, even though it is the result of many thousand miles of travel, and the endurance of many hardships and the expenditure of thousands of dollars, and we feel that it was well worth the effort and expenditure.

This variety was found growing wild in the highest altitudes of Siberia by Prof. N. E. Hansen of our College of Agriculture, under the most extreme climatic conditions, varying from upwards of forty degrees below in winter, to as high as 110 above in summer, with a rainfall of 8 inches.

Cossack alfalfa found its first home in America in Western South Dakota, and the seed we are handling is grown upon many of the fields planted with Siberian seed, or fields with short pedigrees, tracing to the original fields. Close supervision enables us to be sure of its genuineness. This variety in crown and root growth, has the type of the Grimm. It has the widest variegation of bloom of any variety. It is very fine stemmed and apparently more leafy than other varieties of alfalfa.

BALTIC ALFALFA

Unfortunately this variety is not generally

known. Baltic alfalfa, in the severest tests, has withstood extreme climatic conditions, as compared with any other of the hardier strains. Baltic alfalfa has also the spreading root system, the underground crown and the variegated blossom, and is selling at a price much below its value as compared to other varieties. I certainly recommend it to you.

CULTURAL METHODS

Regardless of where you live, there are certain things in soil preparation that you must do if you are to succeed.

You must have a fine, compact and shallow seed bed. Land that has been in a cultivated crop is the ideal place for seeding. Double disc lightly, sow your seed either drill or broadcast, and harrow. In no case get your seed into the ground more than an inch deep. I am sure deep seeding is responsible for more failures to secure a stand than perhaps any other one cause. If a nurse crop is used, a light seeding should be sown, and if it becomes dry at maturing time you had better make hay out of it.

Spring, summer or fall seeding are successful depending upon the locality and your convenience. The amount of seed per acre is problematical, but I would advise you to use the amount found most successful in your county and state. Lime your soil if needed, inoculate your WESODAK seed and you will be successful.

Dear Reader, I hope you have read this far and that it has proved of some value to you. My part, personally, is as a producer and an observer of production, for over a quarter of a century, and marketing of our seed, and am making an effort, three hundred and sixty-five days in a year, to make it possible for you to get recognized hardy produced seed, true to name, which has not always been possible, and am asking for your cooperation. Let's get together! I know it will pay you well.

With personal regards, I am

Yours truly,

WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA ALFALFA
SEED GROWERS EXCHANGE

Nick Caspers. President.

WHAT WE MEAN BY CERTIFIED SEED AND GUARANTEED SEED

This seed has been grown upon fields which have been Registered under the supervision of the South Dakota Crop Improvement Association, after an inspection has been made by an Agronomist and pedigrees have been traced, and the reliability of the growers has been thoroughly investigated. This work is in compliance with rules outlined by the different state associations and the International Crop Improvement Association.

Guaranteed seed is seed grown upon fields that are eligible to registry and trace their origin to fields that are registered at this time.

Through our close contact we know the fields and the growers which enables us to furnish affidavits of genuineness of all of our seed. We have more than 80% of the certified seed produced in South Dakota and fully 65% of the Guaranteed seed that is genuine.

Prices

Our trade mark on tags, and seal on sack is our bond and your guarantee of purity, origin of growth and genuineness of variety.

This season we are using three colors of tags for certified seed, representative of the regular grades used in the past.

All Orders Sent C. O. D. When Not Accompanied by Check or Draft.

Less than bushel lots on all grades and varieties,
1c per pound additional.

S. D. NO. 12

Ex. No. 1.....27c No. 1.....26c No. 2.....22c

CERTIFIED GRIMM

Blue Tag	Red Tag	Yellow Tag
37c	35c	33c

CERTIFIED COSSACK

Blue Tag	Red Tag	Yellow Tag
38c	36c	33c

GUARANTEED GRIMM

Ex. No. 1.....35c No. 1.....33c No. 2.....30c

GUARANTEED COSSACK

Ex. No. 1.....36c No. 1.....34c No. 2.....31c

Guaranteed true to name under our own certification and seal.

BALTIC

No. 130c No. 227c

Each season we have a small amount of alfalfa of each variety which contains a small percentage of Sweet Clover, not exceeding 3 to 5%. This is a very good quality and while it lasts will sell the Grimm and Cossack mixture at 25c per pound and the S. D. No. 12 at 18c.

BAGS EXTRA

Seamless	40c	Bushel size	20c
Half bushel size	15c		

Prices Good Until Further Notice

SWEET CLOVER

Sweet clover, without a doubt, has taken more abuse than any other legume. It has struggled for its existence along the roadside, among the rocks and in the out of the way places, until at this time it is known to be the greatest soil builder of all and produces more pasturage to the square acre than any of our other grasses.

We have the large white, Grundy County white and the yellow blossom variety, all cleaned, graded and scarified. More than 99% pure.

Price, 8 cents a pound. Sacks extra.

Innoculation Is Profitable

and Necessary East of the
Missouri River

NITRAGIN The Original Legume Inoculator

—with the Expiration Date and Legume Germ Count on every Can. 1 bu. size inoculates 60 lbs. legume seed. Prices below.

Alfalfa, All Clovers, Vetch, Peas, Beans		SPECIAL PRICES: Soy Beans and Cow Peas	
Size	Retail	Size	Retail
1/4 bu.....	\$.40	1 bu.....	\$.40
1/2 bu.....	.60	2 bu.....	.70
1 bu.....	1.00	5 bu.....	1.50
5 bu.....	4.75	10 bu.....	2.50

Always state kind of seed — legumes only

Western South Dakota Alfalfa Seed Growers' Exchange

An institution by, for and of the Alfalfa Seed Growers of Western South Dakota.

Its object is to protect the interests of seed producers, as well as to make it possible for users of alfalfa seed to buy cleaned and graded seed of guaranteed origin direct from grower through this Exchange.

NICK CASPERS
PRESIDENT and MANAGER
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA